



Vermont State Employees' Association

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Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

August 24, 2011

Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Members of the FCC:

The leadership of the Vermont State Employees Association supports the Governor's goal of 100 percent broadband access in our predominantly rural state. Accessibility to high-speed wireless broadband, in particular, is essential to Vermont's economic growth. We believe the goal of 100 percent broadband and cell coverage would be achieved more efficiently through efforts like the planned build-out of AT&T's mobile broadband service, which is contingent upon approval of their merger with T-Mobile.

Not only will the merger provide yet another investment in Vermont's broadband infrastructure, but it will give 20,000 T-Mobile workers the chance to join a union. Organized Labor provides hard-working Americans with access to better healthcare and more equitable wages. These are the kinds of opportunities that more Vermonters and Americans need in tough economic times like these. AT&T has a progressive labor policy, one of neutrality that allows their workers to control their own destinies.

We see rich possibilities of AT&T's build-out delivering high-speed broadband and its accompanying economic benefits to more Vermonters. We wholeheartedly support the rare opportunity for 20,000 American workers to join a union and have a say in their workplace. It is with enthusiasm, then, that we ask the Commission to give this merger your favorable consideration.

Sincerely

John Reese
President, Vermont State Employees' Association